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Spring 2-1-2018

CRWR 311.01: Intermediate Poetry Workshop

Prageeta Sharma

University of Montana, Missoula

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311: Intermediate Creative Writing: Poetry
University of Montana Spring 2018

Instructor:

Prageeta Sharma

E-Mail:

Prageeta.sharma@mso.umt.edu

Course Day/Time/Room:

Tuesday 3:30-6:20 LA 243

Office Building/hours:

LA Room 211

Wed. 3:10- 5:00pm

Course Description

This creative writing course is an intermediate workshop involving critical analysis of students' work-in-progress. It will also be a lively and active forum to discuss prosody, and explore the experience of close reading individual poems by well-known poets. We will use Mark Strand's The Making of A Poem: A Norton Anthology of Poetic Forms as our foundational book for our workshop. From this textbook and from various directed writing assignments we will conduct writing experiments and utilize exercises focused on technical considerations like diction, rhythm, rhyme, and imagery as well as many other considerations that reflect our contemporary poetry culture.

Grading Policy

35% in class participation, 20% weekly assignments/responses (on time!) 20% mid-semester portfolio and 25% final manuscript. I expect full participation and will allow for only one absence*.

***Policy on absences and lateness:**

The standard policy is that no more than two absences in a fifteen-week term may result in a grade of "no-credit." Please arrive on time for class and stay until dismissal. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. If there is an emergency please speak to me about it as soon as you can.

Pedagogy and Outcomes:

I encourage you to exchange University of Montana e-mail addresses with your fellow peers as you will be getting to know each other through your own work and responses. (You will only be able to share your UM e-mails and not personal e-mails.) Since we are creating a conscientious and supportive environment, I trust that you will be mindful and respectful of each other and your shared work and will not discuss the work with persons outside of our workshop unless you have permission from the author. Many of you will

be making use of the class to explore personal and important themes and would enjoy a comfortable environment to do so.

Along with the reading and writing of poetry and the occasional essay, video or audio recording, each class will have a ten-minute freewrite. This means you are free to write in your notebook without worrying about revising or crafting in advance. I will also encourage a focus freewrite where we will have a theme or a stylistic consideration as a frame of reference. This will happen every class. This will be part of developing your portfolio and/or manuscript.

We will have a teaching format made up of weekly packet work. I will organize groups of four-six students to work in small groups for half an hour to 45 min. each class; we then come together to workshop a poem from each group in a collaborative fashion. This will allow each student to receive feedback from your group and rotational feedback from the class at large. We will spend the first hour of class on readings from the anthology and the remaining class time workshoping in groups and with the whole class.

All course work (unless stated otherwise) must be typed or computer printed on standard white 20-24lb paper, double spaced and with a minimum of 1-inch margins. Keep a copy (electronic or otherwise) of all material you submit to the class (or to me). Be prepared to make weekly copies of your work for peers. We will be doing weekly writing assignments in class, and you will be expected to write on your own time. We may also consider creating a blog or some kind of on-line community where you can share work.

Preferred Name & Preferred Gender Pronouns

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

READING MATERIAL

-Mark Strand The Making of A Poem: A Norton Anthology of Poetic Forms

-PDF Handout on-line (I will distribute this the second week of class via e-mail & on Moodle.)

-Weekly student poems (distributed the day before class—uploaded to Moodle)

Assignments

Midterm portfolio

Adopt a poet: presentations on poets

(students present the work/book of a contemporary poet)

Chapbook/portfolio due at the end of semester

1/23

Introduction

The Making of A Poem: Read Verse Forms xiii- pg. 4.
Discussion of Prosody and Poetry
Poetry Questionnaire: Jack Spicer's Magic Workshop
Homework: Poem based on Questionnaire

1/30

Questionnaire poem workshopped
Imitations and discussion of Imitations
Homework: Imitation

The Making of A Poem: Section IV (pg. 259): Poems: Open Forms: Read all poems in this section and devise an imitation.

2/6

The Making of A Poem: The Ode (pg. 240)
Kenneth Koch Address

2/13

Love Poem; Anti-Love Poem
Poems: Handout

2/20

The Sonnet and the Ballad
The Making of A Poem: (pp. 55-100)

2/27 The Ballad continued

3/6

Elizabeth Bishop & the Villanelle
The Making of A Poem: The Villanelle (pp. 5-20)
Possible Guest Speaker

3/13

The Making of A Poem: Sestina pp. 21-42
Sestina collaboration (Sestina Reality Show)

3/20

Midterm Portfolios due. (6 poems and a reflection paper on your revision process)
"Close Calls With Nonsense: How to Read, and Perhaps Enjoy, Very New Poetry"
Stephen Burt (from *The Believer*)
Poetry comics, spoken word, performance poems, visual poems and sound poems

3/27

Spring Break

4/3

Poetry comics, spoken word, performance poems, visual poems and sound poems

4/10

Translation and contemporary poetry

President's Writer-in-Residence Series: Don Mee Choi

Don Mee Choi gives a craft lecture at noon on Friday, April 13 (location TBA), and a reading that evening at 7 p.m. in the Dell Brown Room of Turner Hall.

Attendance and written response to her reading mandatory.

4/17

Experimental poem

4/24

Adopt a literary journal (*APR*, *Boston Review*, *Fence*, *Ploughshares*, *Volta*, etc.)

Introduction to the Poetry Corner (Mansfield library)

Presentation of a literary journal

5/1

Readings and Presentations

5/8

Portfolios Due (10 poems in Chapbook form).